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SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

East Asia and Pacific: DPRK

"The Big Squeeze"

Korea University Prof. Kim Sung-han observed in right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo (07/07): "The Obama Administration seems to think it needs to push North Korea to the limit to bring it back to dialogue.

... Toward this end, the United States must carry out independent measures aimed at squeezing North Korea, such as financial sanctions and blocking the North's weapons exports. At the same time, China has to be encouraged to implement UN Security Council Resolution 11874. The U.S. reconfirmed its promise to offer the nuclear umbrella to the ROK and Japan, thereby lifting China's worries over the possible nuclear armament of its two neighbors. The United States thinks it is now China's turn to respond. China will probably do so at the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue scheduled for late July. Whether or not the Obama Administration's stern response to North Korea will continue depends on what type of presents China will bring to the party."

STEPHENNS